

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS  
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1922.

The fifth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1922 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C., on Friday, March 31, 1922.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;  
Mr. Greenleaf;  
Mr. Fraser;  
Mr. Ayres;  
Mr. Mowbray;

also Lieut. Colonel C. O. Sherrill, Secretary  
and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

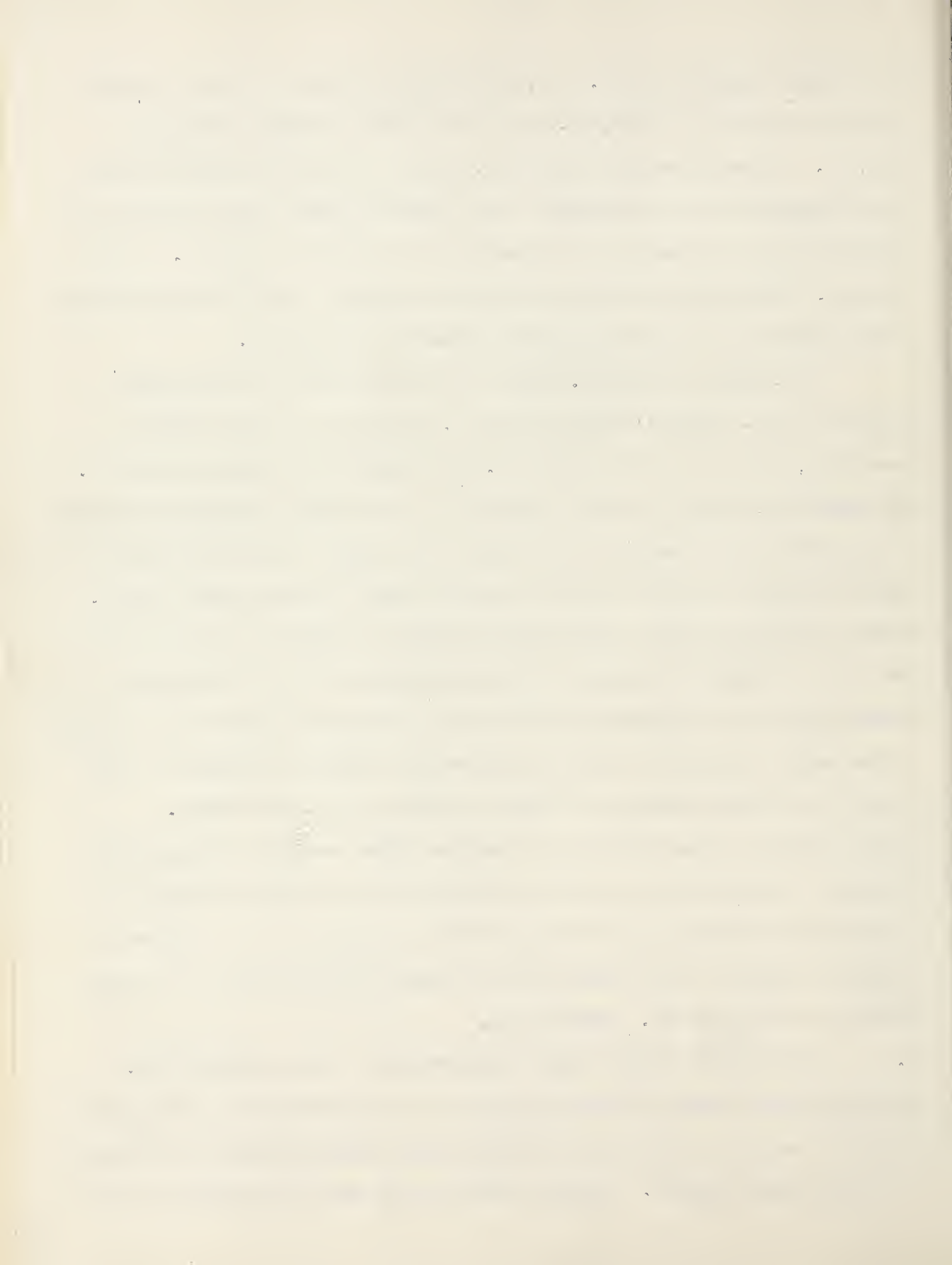
1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held February 24, 1922, were approved.
2. FLAGPOLE, EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL: Professor DeWitt C. Croissant, and Miss Katherine Harris, representing the alumni of the Eastern High School, brought before the Commission two designs for the flagpole for the Eastern High School, to commemorate their World War dead, one by Miss Harris, showing a well-designed ornamental base, and the other by a Mr. Foster, showing an octagonal base. Professor Croissant stated that the committee desired to be advised as to which of the two designs the Commission of Fine Arts preferred. The Commission thought the design made by Miss Harris preferable.
3. ALFRED NOBLE MONUMENT: Mr. Glenn Brown submitted photographs of the revised model of the Alfred Noble Memorial Fountain, of which he is the architect. Mr. Brown stated that work on the model had been delayed because of the war but that now Mr. Paul Bartlett, the sculptor, had attempted to revise the model in accordance with the suggestions of the Commission made at



the meeting on April 13, 1917. Mr. Brown said before the war they could have erected the memorial for \$50,000., but now the lowest estimate received is \$116,000. Alternate schemes made by Mr. Bartlett which would reduce the cost of the memorial were not acceptable to the committee, among them a design for a very low fountain, which was disapproved by the Engineers' Committee. Therefore, Mr. Brown said the model as revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts is being submitted for approval.

Mr. Moore informed Mr. Brown that having heard from him that the model was in Mr. Hastings' office he and Mr. Fraser saw the model there on March 25th, and that in the meantime Mr. Ayres and Mr. Bacon also had seen it. The Commission, after a thorough discussion of the subject, recommended that the side figures be made smaller, more related to the upper bowl, and that the corbels project less; also that the lower pool might be made somewhat larger. However, before proceeding further with the work the Commission suggested that the model be studied in relation to the site selected for the fountain on Rawlins Square at the intersection of E Street and New York Avenue to the south of the Interior Department, also that the design should be considered in relation to the proposed extension of New York Avenue west to the Potomac. Colonel Sherrill stated that this is important since recently a site has been acquired at Twentieth Street and New York Avenue for the proposed District of Columbia Convention Hall, and that legislation is pending for the purchase of a number of squares between Eighteenth and Twentieth Streets south of New York Avenue for Government use. (Exhibit A).

4. ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL, WALTER REED HOSPITAL: Major General M. W. Ireland, Surgeon General of the Army, presented to the Commission plans for the first of a series of buildings for the Army Medical School erected in connection with Walter Reed Hospital. General Ireland stated that the Hospital is to the



east of the School Building and that the Army Medical Museum and Library will be to the west of the grounds from Sixteenth Street. The plan provides for the extension of Fourteenth Street through the Walter Reed Hospital grounds according to the District Highway map.

The Commission thought the plans well designed and in harmony with the Hospital Buildings, and approved them. (Exhibit B).

5. FIRST DIVISION MEMORIAL: Colonel G. C. Marshall, Colonel Campbell King, and Colonel F. C. Marshall, appeared before the Commission in behalf of the Committee of the First Division Memorial. The preliminary design made by Mr. Cass Gilbert was submitted to the Commission. The design represents a column, on the top of which is a figure of Victory, Daniel Chester French being the sculptor selected.

Colonel G. C. Marshall, speaking in behalf of the Committee, said that Congress had enacted legislation permitting the First Division to erect this memorial in Washington, and that they desire the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts on the design and the site. Colonel Marshall said that the design, similar to the West Point Battle Monument, is as desired by the First Division, and that 5,500 names to commemorate the First Division dead are to appear on the memorial. The site desired is on the square south of the State, War and Navy Building. The First Division has a fund of \$150,000 to erect the memorial.

Mr. Moore stated the question of the First Division Memorial has been before the Commission since November, 1919, and that while the Commission had, at the request of the First Division, endorsed the site south of the State, War and Navy Building, this had been done subject to the approval of Congress to the location of the memorial there, and also with the understanding that a monument at that location be designed with respect to the site, the Commission having suggested a fountain. Furthermore that when in December, 1919 the Commission



brought the matter to the attention of the War Department for advice as to Division memorials the conclusion was reached at the time that one great National World War Memorial should be erected in Washington to commemorate the services of all the Divisions and allied organizations in the World War, and that if it should happen that any one Division would raise a sufficient fund for a monument which would be designed as an ornament to the city there would be no objection on the part of the Commission to its erection in Washington.

However, under these circumstances Mr. Moore said the First Division has specified the type of design, the ornamentation of the 5,500 names which would disfigure the monument, and has requested the site south of the State, War and Navy Building; and that thus neither the sculptor nor the architect are given freedom in the preparation of the design. The Commission decided that the monument according to the design submitted -- a column with base about seventy feet in height -- would be inappropriate on the square south of the State, War and Navy Building. Mr. Fraser pointed out that it would be objectionable to see such a tall shaft so near to the Washington Monument. The Commission suggested that if the First Division is insistent on this type of design some other site be selected. Colonel Sherrill suggested a site at the point south of the Army War College, which would afford a good location near the War College, overlooking the river, and would be, before a great while, along a proposed boulevard connecting East Potomac Park with the Anacostia Water Park, according to the plans of the Commission of Fine Arts. Colonel Sherrill suggested further that he had heard from Senator Brandegee, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, that he would favor the site south of the Army War College, the Act providing that this Committee shall approve the site. (Exhibit C).



6. MONUMENT TO LIEUT. LUIGI BARTOLUCCI-DUNDAS: The Quartermaster General submitted a design for a monument in the Arlington National Cemetery to Lieutenant Luigi Bartolucci-Dundas, Assistant Naval Attache of the Italian Embassy, who died in Washington April 1, 1920. The monument is to be a marble slab with a cross for the sculpture design and under it the inscription -

LUIGI BARTOLUCCI-DUNDAS  
ITALIAN NAVY  
1888 - 1920

The Commission approved the design. (Exhibit D).

7. PEDESTAL FOR THE STATUE OF DANTE: The Commission ~~submitted~~ <sup>approved</sup> a sketch model of a pedestal made by Mr. H. W. Peaslee, architect, for the statue of Dante, in Meridian Hill Park. The pedestal had been studied in relation to the model for the lower garden of Meridian Hill Park. The Commission did not think that either of the two models submitted would give the statue of Dante a proper height and suggested resubmission of a model about one foot or one and one-half feet higher, in proportion, than that of the lower model submitted; also that a scale drawing be made suggesting a treatment of the site.

8. STATUE OF EDMUND BURKE: Under date of February 27, 1922 Colonel Sherrill submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts photographs of the Statue of Edmund Burke with letter as follows:

"There is inclosed herewith photographs of the statue of Edmund Burke, which the Sulgrave Institution proposes to present to the United States.

Under the Joint Resolution as passed by the Senate February 24th, the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress is charged with the duty of approving the design of the monument, with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts. The photographs herewith are sent in order to assist the Commission in passing on this design."

The statue is a copy of the Statue of Edmund Burke in Bristol, England, by the late Havard Thomas of London. The Commission approved the erection of the statue in Washington but disapproved the pedestal. The Commission recommend-



ed that action with reference to the pedestal be held in abeyance pending the definite selection of a site for the statue.

9. TABLET, MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Colonel Sherrill submitted a sketch of a bronze tablet which the Daughters of the American Revolution propose erecting on the wall inside the archway entrance on Sixteenth Street to Meridian Hill Park. The tablet is to mark the meridian of the District of Columbia.

The Commission were of the opinion that the meridian of the District of Columbia is in the center of Sixteenth Street, and that until this could be verified further action with reference to the tablet be held in abeyance. The Commission requested that the actual wording proposed for the tablet appear on any further design submitted.

10. GRANT MEMORIAL COINS: The Commission examined specimens of the Grant Memorial Gold Dollar and a half dollar sent to them by the Director of the Mint for inspection. The memorial coins are to commemorate the centennial of the birth of General Grant on April 27, 1922, on which date is to be dedicated the Grant Memorial at the head of the Mall by Henry M. Shrady, sculptor, which has been erected by Congress at a cost of \$250,000. The obverse of the coin shows the head of General Grant and the reverse a cabin, his birthplace. The Commission were pleased with the design.

11. AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN EUROPE: Major George Gibbs, Jr., landscape architect, of the Office of the Quartermaster General, submitted plans of the War Department for buildings proposed for the permanent American Cemeteries in Europe. The Commission after inspection of the plans recommended that Colonel Penrose, Chief of the Graves Registration Service, authorize Major Gibbs to submit the plans to Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall, of New York City, for his approval. (Exhibit E).

12. LAMP POST, GEORGETOWN BRIDGE: The Commission submitted a model for



the lamp post for the new Georgetown Bridge. Colonel Charles Keller, Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, and Major M. C. Tyler, of the United States Engineers Office, accompanied the Commission during the inspection. The model was made similar to the Potomac Park lamp post in accordance with suggestions of the Commission, but as seen on the bridge the model appeared to be out of proportion. Mr. Ayres suggested further modification of the design and the Commission recommended that specifications of the model be resubmitted to the Commission.

13. THE MALL: Colonel Sherrill presented a grading plan and accompanying profiles for a portion of Henry and Seaton Park in the vicinity of the Botanic Garden, showing a proposed widening of Third Street and the future extension of Second Street through the Botanic Garden. Consideration was given to the grades of the plan and profiles. Acceptance was advised without change.

14. CHANGES IN PERSONNEL, FISCAL YEAR 1923: The Commission considered the changes in personnel made necessary by the recent action of Congress.

At a Hearing before the sub-committee of the Independent Offices Appropriation Bill in December, 1921, Hon. Will R. Wood, of Indiana, Chairman, very unjustly attacked the Commission and the plans for the development of the National Capital. The attack by Mr. Wood came about particularly through the refusal of the Commission to compromise with Mr. George Hess, superintendent of the Botanic Garden, a small ten acre tract at the west of the Capital, who in the spring of 1921 attempted to extend the Botanic Garden into the Mall area, opposing the Mt. Hamilton site of 400 acres recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts for a National Botanic Garden. The Commission, having been entrusted with the L'Enfant Plan and the Senate Park Commission Plan of 1901, which provides for a through Mall vista from the Capitol west to the Potomac, recommended the removal of the existing garden, so that the Mall may be completed without



further unnecessary delay. The Plan of 1901 provides for a plaza treatment of the botanic garden area into what is known as Union Square, giving an adequate setting for the \$250,000 Grant Memorial and the Meade Memorial in this area at the head of the Mall.

Mr. Wood further protested against the Commission paying for traveling expenses other than for trips to and from Washington and to the increase in the personnel necessitated by the growth of the work of the Commission. He thereupon changed the item pertaining to the Commission of Fine Arts in the Bill to read as follows:

"For expenses made necessary by the Act entitled 'An Act establishing a Commission of Fine Arts', approved May 17, 1910, including the purchase of periodicals, maps, and books of reference, to be disbursed on vouchers approved by the commission, \$6,000: PROVIDED, That no person shall receive compensation hereunder at a rate exceeding \$1,800 per annum and only one person shall be employed at that rate: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no part of this sum shall be expended for traveling expenses other than those incurred by members of the commission for actual travel only in going and returning from Washington to attend the meetings of the commission."

The measure passed the House of Representatives on January 30, 1922.

The Commission was defended in an extended speech in the House of Representatives by Hon. Henry Allen Cooper, of Wisconsin, and the United States Senate struck out the amendments of the House and restored the item of the Commission of Fine Arts on February 3, 1922. However, the House and Senate conferees failed to agree, and the Senate thereupon concurred in the House measure.

Therefore, subject to the final enactment of this legislation, the Commission decided that, effective July 1, 1922, it will become necessary -

To reduce the salary of the Assistant to the Secretary from \$2,500 to \$1,800 a year.

To terminate the position of stenographer and typewriter.

To reduce the salary of the messenger boy from \$60. to \$40. a month.



The Commission expressed the hope that while the Act does not retain the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds as ex-officio the Secretary and Executive Officer of the Commission that Colonel Sherrill would nevertheless stay with the Commission. Colonel Sherrill replied that he would regret leaving the Commission and would be pleased to attend the meetings as heretofore, though he doubted if after the enactment of this legislation he could continue to serve the Commission in an official capacity.

Mr. Moore stated that his term will expire in September, and that he would be pleased if at that time some one were appointed in his place, since he was completing twelve years of continuous service. The Commission, however, strongly opposed Mr. Moore's leaving the Commission.

Colonel Sherrill reported that within the past few days Mr. Hess had agreed to the transfer of his flower garden to the James Creek Canal area south of the Capitol, which has been given him for such use by the Chief of Engineers with the understanding that the fence around the botanic garden area would come down.

The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Colonel Charles Keller, Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, and Major M. C. Tyler, of the United States Engineer Office. After the luncheon the Commission inspected with them the model of the lamp post for the Georgetown Bridge, and considered also the proposed treatment of the approach to the bridge. The Commission thereupon returned to resume the session, adjourning at 5:00 p.m.



C O P Y

April 4, 1922.

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Commission considered the design for the Alfred Noble Memorial Fountain at their meeting on March 31, 1922, and thought that progress was being made toward a good solution of the problem, but that the end had not yet been reached. When you come up to Washington again the matter will be explained to you more fully.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill  
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Glenn Brown, Esq.,  
care Quantico Hotel,  
Quantico, Virginia.

EXHIBIT A.



March 31, 1922.

Dear General Ireland:

I have to report that the Commission of Fine Arts approve the designs which you submitted at their meeting today for the Army Medical School, to be built at the Walter Reed Hospital.

The designs are returned to you herewith.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill  
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Major General M. W. Ireland,  
The Surgeon General of the Army,  
War Department.



C O P Y

April 4, 1922.

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

At their meeting on March 31, 1922 the Commission of Fine Arts considered the alternative designs for the First Division Monument to be erected in Washington. The Commission were not able to approve the design of the Monument for the site indicated, namely, on the south axis of the State, War, and Navy Building, where that axis intersects the axis of E Street. The Commission were of the opinion that if the First Division shall continue to insist on a shaft and the inscription of the names of those who died while connected with the Division, then a site at the Army War College, or in some other military reservation, would be appropriate.

Very respectfully, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill,  
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Cass Gilbert, Esq.,  
244 Madison Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT C.



April 3, 1922.

Dear Colonel Penrose:

With reference to your communication of March 28 transmitting a design for the proposed monument for Lieutenant Luigi Bartolucci-Dundas, to be erected in Arlington National Cemetery, I have to inform you that the Commission of Fine Arts approved the design at their meeting on March 31, 1922, with the suggestion that the lettering might be slightly lowered so as not to be so near to the design of the cross. I am returning the design and papers in the case to you herewith.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill,  
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief  
Graves Registration Service,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D.



April 1, 1922.

Dear Colonel Penrose:

With reference to the designs of buildings proposed for the permanent American Cemeteries in Europe, which were submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts on March 31, 1922, the Commission respectfully suggest that Major George Gibbs, Landscape Architect, of your Office, be authorized by you to submit and review these plans with Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall, care of McKim, Mead and White, Architects, 101 Park Avenue, New York City, who as a member of the Commission of Fine Arts visited Europe and assisted in the preparation of the preliminary plans. The designs submitted lack qualities which should characterize the American work in France, if our cemeteries are to hold their own with those of other nations.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill,

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,  
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief,  
Graves Registration Service,  
War Department.

EXHIBIT E.

1888

1888

1888

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